ensures improvement in dredging services and more competitive rates for the users.

Models for Highway safety

1889. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India had adopted model for highway safety; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) There is no Single Model on road safety adopted by National Highways Authority of India, it follows safety requirements at various stages e.g. Design, Construction and Maintenance (post construction) to ensure Highway Safety.

Design Stage: It is ensured that various highway design parameters e.g. sight distances, vertical/horizontal curves, superelevation, road signs/ markings, crash barriers etc. have properly been taken care of in line with Indian Roads Congress (IRC) guidelines/Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways (M/o S,RT & H) specifications.

Construction Stage: Various safety measures e.g. advance warning signs, cordoning of work places etc. are taken during construction stage as per M/o S,RT&H specifications and IRC guidelines.

Post-Construction Stage: After construction of the highways, sections are inspected time to time for any deficiencies related to road safety and safety measures are provided under Maintenance contracts. Road Safety audits are also conducted to find out any deficiencies in newly completed sections. Besides, services like ambulances, tow-away

cranes, patrol vehicles are provided in completed sections to provide immediate relief to road users.

Poor condition of Highways/roads leading to religious centres

1890. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor condition of the highways/roads leading to the various important religious centres of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps that are being taken by Government to improve the condition of these highways/roads so that no inconvenience is caused to the pilgrims visiting them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The Union Government is responsible for development and maintenance of only National Highways. The National Highways connecting to the religious centres are maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken up the development of National Highways under the programme of National Highways Development Project Phase-III (NHDP-III). One of the criteria for inclusion of the sections of National Highways in NHDP Phase-III is providing connectivity to the important pilgrimage/religious centres. Accordingly, some sections of National Highways that are passing close to pilgrimage/religious centres have been identified for inclusion under this scheme. State Governments can submit proposals for improvement of the State roads connecting such centres to National Highways from the State's share of Central Road Fund.